

# CHAPTER VII

## Clubs and Organisations

### Apex Club

Steve Willey

Taroona Apex was formed by a group of Apexians from the Kingston Club who lived in the area. The Club held its inaugural dinner at "St. Ives" Hotel, Battery Point, Hobart, on Saturday the 6th November 1970.

Sponsored by the Apex Club of Kingston, the Taroona Club received its charter at the "Town House" Hotel, Hobart, on Saturday the 26th August 1972. The Club had 22 charter members, 17 of these being foundation members.

The Club has been actively involved in all types of community projects since its formation. For example, roadside clean ups, tidy-town competitions, donation of gifts and services to receiving homes and St. Joseph's Crisis Centre, diabetic programmes, foster parents plan and overseas bursary schemes.

The Apex Club has always had the reputation of running happy and profitable social functions, including river cruises, car trials, annual cricket matches with the Taroona Fire Brigade, bottle and plate nights, gambling nights and a most successful mock wedding which was well supported by some of the local residents.

Current membership of Taroona Apex stands at 15, with all members being actively involved in the Club.

#### Achievements

1971-1986:

Taroona Apex has been involved in helping the Ex-Servicemen's Club run the Christmas truck which travels the streets of the suburb bringing Christmas spirit to the local community.

1972-73:

The Club was actively involved in the construction of scaffolding for the stage in front of the Hobart Town Hall for New Years Eve celebrations:

1974:

It was the first service club to debate with prisoners at Risdon Prison. The then president, Ray Brown, presented the prison

with a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica. As a result of the Club's inauguration of this project most service clubs are now involved in prison debating.

1975-76:

The Club won a Service Trophy at the District Convention for constructing a path, which is now named Apex Walk, around Crayfish Point.

The Apex Playground project has turned a wilderness area into a major children's play park. This was supervised by members of the Club under the chairmanship of Mr Neil Bester. Other members of the committee were: Mr Paul Shelley, Treasurer, and Messrs. P. Flanagan, S. Willey, R. McNeice, P. Vallerine and C. Martindill.

The Committee managed funds of \$14,000, sponsored by the Australian Government under the R.E.D. Scheme. The Park was opened by the then Warden of Kingborough, Mr Bill Hodgman, on the 9th November 1976. Taroona Apex participated in the Blue Gum Festival which was held at the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, to raise money for various Tasmanian charities.

Former member, Mr Ray Brown and his wife Margaret, toured Equador in South America to visit one of our foster children.

1980-81:

The Club was involved in the Casino Charity Day, at which they ran a Chicken Wheel to raise money for the Sheltered Workshops, under the Chairmanship of the then Lord Mayor, Mr Doug Plaister.

1983:

At the District Convention Taroona Apex won a Service Trophy for the Ian Bender Memorial Shelter. This shelter is situated on the reserve at the northern end of Taroona Beach.

#### Past Presidents

Paul Shelley,  
Ian Bender (Patron),  
Ray Brown,  
Neil Bester,  
Steve Willey,  
Colin Martindill,

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Wayne Quinn,  
Bill Darling (Life Member),  
Peter Makepeace,  
Peter Willey,  
Terry McDonnell,  
Wayne Emanuelli,  
Paul Martin,  
Wayne McNeice,  
Terry Crawford,



## Brownies

Emeline L. Haight

Lord Baden-Powell started his movement for boys in 1908; the first review rally was held in 1909 at the Crystal Palace in London. Bringing up the rear of 11,000 boys was a small but determined group of girls. B-P passed these on to his sister Agnes who started the first groups of Guides and Rosebuds, later to become Brownies.

In Tasmania the first Brownie pack was registered in 1915, and the 1st Tarooma Brownie pack was first registered by the State Girl Guide Association on the 4th June 1955. At first the girls met in the Methodist Church hall on Saturday afternoons. In 1957 the venue changed to the Ex-Servicemen's Hall in Jenkins St. and in 1970 to the Scout Hall. Meeting days changed from Fridays and Saturdays to Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mrs Doris (L.) Gangell, the first Tarooma Brownie leader, was an enthusiastic community worker. She started the first creche at Kingston Beach, which is believed to have been the first in Tasmania. While working at the Clarendon Home, she met an English Guider, Miss Wade, who told her about the Guide Movement. Mrs Gangell had a boarder, the Kingston Beach kindergarten teacher and a friend, Miss Ranson, who were also enthusiastic about Guides. These three inspired Mrs Gangell to discover more about Guiding. Her first daughter, Ann, became a Brownie at Kingston Beach and later, a Guide. When Ann enrolled at the Fahan School, the Gangells moved to Tarooma in order to shorten the travelling time to school. At age 15, Ann received a Cadbury Bursary to attend a World Rally of Guides and Scouts at Windsor Great Park, UK. During her seven months overseas adventure she stayed in Ireland with Mrs Greeves (a Miss Cadbury) for two weeks, visited Our Chalet in Abelboden, Switzerland, and toured the continent. Upon her return, Ann completed her Queen's Guides Award and became the lieutenant (assistant leader) of the Tarooma Guides. Eventually she trained as a kindergarten teacher and served as a Guide Leader in Mt. Eliza, Victoria, for many years. She is still active in Guiding.

Ann's little sister Clare wanted to be part of the movement as well. So, after the Gangells

moved to Tarooma, Mrs Gangell, then aged 50, started the 1st Tarooma Brownie Pack in June 1955. It met at the Methodist, now Uniting, Church hall on Saturday afternoons. Mr Len Bell made the first toadstool from a large hub cap and painted the fairies around its base. Mrs Gangell took the Brownies exploring in the creek behind the hall, along the beach and in the bush. The girls were in the front row at Government House during the visit of Queen Elizabeth in the 1950s and were able to exchange a few words. Funds were always short, and the Brownies and their parents ran many fund raising ventures. In these early years the Brownie pack was usually full with 20-24 girls between 8-12 years old, and when the first lot of Brownies were ready for Guides, Mrs Tenniswood started the 1st Tarooma Guide Company. Clare, one of the first Tarooma Brownies, is still active as Brown Owl in Menzies Creek, Victoria.

Unfortunately, most of the early records of the Tarooma Brownies have been lost. In the 33 years since 1955 there have been 10 Brown Owls, and nearly 400 Tarooma and Sandy Bay girls have worn the Brownie uniform. After Mrs Gangell's stint as Foundation Brown Owl from 1955-1959, Miss Valerie Volk took the reins (1960-1963) with Miss Anne Tenniswood as her Tawny Owl (Assistant Leader). Mrs Sue (A.B.) Mount then took over with Miss R.J. Atkinson as Tawny Owl (1964-1965) completing the first ten years of Tarooma Brownie history. The leaders during the second decade were: Mrs Joy (G.E.) Ross Young (1965-1967); Mrs Marion (R.) Macintyre Smith (1968-1969); Dr. Hilary (Mrs A.G.) Wallace as Tawny Owl (1968-69 and 1972-73); and Mrs Ann (T.) Ellison, Brown Owl from December 1969 until 1975. After many active years of Brownie leadership, she retired to devote more time to other activities, and the Brownies went into recess until May 1976 when Mrs Pauline (D.) Bennison reactivated the pack. Mrs Mary (P.) Shelley was Tawny Owl in 1979 and took over as Brown Owl in 1979. Mrs Emeline (J.R.) Haight became Tawny Owl in third term 1983, and when Mrs. Shelley's children moved on to Guides and she moved on to other activities, Mrs Haight took charge from 1984-1986, after which the pack went into recess.

The Brownie programme, then as now, is based on eight areas: home help, lend-a-hand, friendliness, craft, fitness, wide awake, doing

their best and fun outdoors. Yearly divisional activities, involving other Brownie packs and Guide companies, include swimming carnivals, church parades and the annual Woodcraft Shield day. Each pack is divided into groups of six girls, called Sixes, led by a senior Brownie, the Sixer. The 1963 Sixes were called Gnomes, Kelpies and Pixies. These were changed to Moora Mooras, Tintookies, Junjarins and Lallagullies in 1970. Sixers in 1963 were Sue Hurburgh, Pippa George and Brenda Williams; in 1964 they were Jill Kirkland, Pippa George and Nicole Wisbey. Interest badges cost 1s. 3d. in 1963 compared with 65 cents in 1986.

During Mrs Ellison's tenure as Brown Owl (1969-1975) the Brownies went blackberrying for jam and fun, planted trees at St. Luke's Anglican Church in 1971 as a conservation project, participated in the Brownie Olympics in 1972 and tie-dyed tea towels in Mrs Ellison's washing machine. After the 1967 bush fires destroyed the Oyster Cove campsite, the Southern Tasmanian Guides purchased land at Lauderdale and built the present campsite at Orana near Lauderdale.

Mrs Pauline Bennison restarted the pack in June 1976 with 4 very enthusiastic girls, but by November 12 girls were enrolled and enjoying such activities as entertaining other Brownie Packs, having a barbecue and walk at the Waterworks Reservoir. At Christmas the Brownies visited Mary's Grange Home and presented handcrafted name cards and other decorations. Christmas food and entertainment were also provided. Kate Osborn and Jane Thompson, from the Tarooma Guide Company, served as Pack Guides (helpers) in 1977.

1978 saw such renewed interest in Brownies that a waiting list was needed once more. Mrs Bennison limited her pack to 18 Brownies because she lacked a Tawny Owl. Some assistance was available with Mrs Margaret Vandenberg serving as unit helper while Alison Lakin, Trisha Turnbull and Mary Ellen Byrne were Pack Guides during the year. The Brownies Sixes turned into devils, kangaroos and possums for a Bush Holiday in May. Other activities involved participation in "Encore", a chance for all Brownies and Guides to perform before a live audience of family and friends, plus concentration on general badge work such as Hostess, Collector,

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and Thrift and baking Easter cakes for the residents of Mary's Grange. The Sixers for this year were Suzanna Turnbull, Christine Kloser and Catherine Oliver.

Mrs Mary Shelley assisted the Brownies from February 1979 in preparation for taking over from Mrs Bennison for whom impending motherhood necessitated a May retirement. A pack library was started, and correspondence with Brownies in Surrey, England was begun. Craft activities covered Easter Day cards, felt flower bookmarks, and knitted squares joined to make a blanket for Mrs Bennison's new daughter. Rum balls were made in the kitchen, some even made it home for Father's Day presents. District activities included a cruise to Dennes Point. Jill Osborn and Jane Mills were much appreciated Pack Guides. Mary's Grange residents received potted plants as Christmas presents.

In 1980 Mrs Shelley had a pack of 20 Brownies with 12 girls on the waiting list. Catherine Forster was the pack Guide for the year with Mrs Pat (K.) Saunders joining as a Unit Helper for the second term. The Brownies made scrapbooks for medical waiting rooms and planted trees along the Karingal Court nature strip. They also won 1st prize of \$25 worth of equipment in the Rangers' Lamington Drive. Unit work continued with cooking, sewing, scavenger hunts, hikes and semaphore, compass and fitness training. For Christmas the girls grew plants for the Children's ward at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

1981 was the International Year of the Disabled Person. Special emphasis was placed on earning the Aid to Disabled Interest Badge by Mrs Shelley's 22 Brownies, assisted by Mrs Cherry Coyle as Unit Helper from May and by Pack Guide, Stacey Thompson. The girls did tactile handwork such as pom-pom mobiles, poker work and made toys for the blind. Their efforts were presented to, and much appreciated by, a relief-care home for the disabled.

The Year of the Tree in 1982 saw a tree planted by Catrin Webb, on behalf of the Tarooma Brownies, in the Hobart Botanical Gardens. Catrin's family was temporarily in Tarooma from Sault St. Marie, Ontario. An exchange of Thinking Day gifts and letters followed with Catrin's home pack until 1986. A long term project centered on com-

munications using public telephones and understanding the telecommunication systems. The Brownies grew plants for Elim House in Hobart and made Christmas food for a party attended by recently arrived Vietnamese children. Bronwyn Cousins was Pack Guide for the year with Mrs Coyle as Unit Helper. Few girls will forget the 40° C shade at Risdon Brook Dam during Brownie Revels this year.

1983 was "Encore", once more, and a pack holiday was held in April. Mrs Shelley, Mrs Coyle and Pack Guide, Elizabeth Maugham, led the Brownies through a wide range of activities such as back-to-front night, handcraft and cooking, nature study and simple first aid. Plants were grown for the Salvation Army Children's Project for Christmas.

1984 saw Mrs Shelley taking a well-earned rest from Brownies. Mrs Emeline Haight having moved from Canberra to Tarooma in 1983 with two Brownie daughters, became Brown Owl. With parents participating on a roster basis, many activities were attempted. Hostess, athlete, and agility activities kept the pack busy. A high point was a doll and stuffed animal show held in the Tarooma Community Hall. Josie Bessell had the best doll overall, and Becky Brown's stuffed snake frightened off all competitors in that category. While the eyes of the world were on the Los Angeles Olympics, the Tarooma Brownies were holding their own Olympics at Orana Camp, Lauderdale, during a weekend of solid rain.

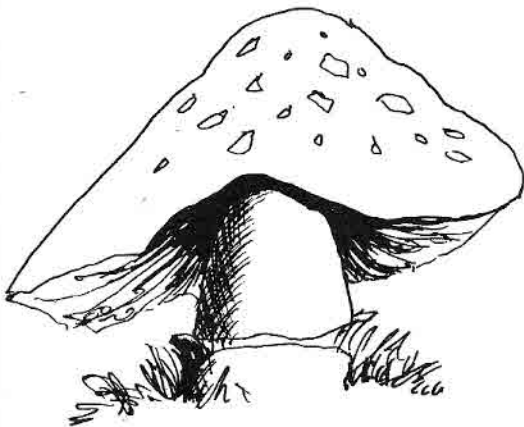
The year 1985 started with 30 ghosts, goblins and spirits at a Ghostly Weekend at the new camp building, Malunna, at Orana. The Tarooma Brownie pack celebrated its 30th birthday, and the girls organised a party to celebrate. Mrs Pat Farmer became Unit Helper which enabled a more consistent program to be carried out. As the Brownies were also celebrating their 70th year in Tasmania in 1985, the pack joined with the Brownies of Southern Tasmania for Mullala at Clarence in October. The pack was billeted in Lindisfarne and had a surprise visit to Richmond and the village fair.

1986 was a busy year for the 18 Brownies led by Mrs Haight and Mrs Farmer. The girls practiced their hostess and cooking skills on the Cubs who were invited to a fancy-dress party at the Community Hall. An annual event for all Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts is Thinking Day on the 22nd February.

Most years participants march from Franklin Square through Elizabeth St. Mall to St. David's Park for a short service with members and supporters of Guiding and Scouting. Biscuit day is a popular annual event in which Brownies and Guides team up and sell door to door though the cartons can get very heavy after many hours of climbing long, steep driveways in cold and often rainy weather. On the first day of spring the Brownies made spring baskets of shortbread for the recipients of Meals on Wheels. The Brownies also grew plants for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. An ongoing tradition was maintained with each Brownie making an ornament for her family Christmas tree. Mrs Haight resigned as Brown Owl due to ill health.

The Tarooona pack is part of the Derwent District, Hobart Division. This District includes Tarooona, Sandy Bay and Mt. Nelson while the division is bounded by Tarooona, the Derwent, New Town and Ferntree. Among the early Derwent District Commissioners was Mrs Jane Osborne who served during the bushfire years. The present district commissioner is Mrs Irene Maugham.

The Local Association (LA) is a support group of the parents of Brownies and Guides of the district. Past stalwarts of the LA who have organized many years of biscuit selling and fund raising include Mrs Joan Hurburgh, Mrs Newnham, Mrs Lauris Crisp and Mrs Lakin, all of Tarooona, plus Mrs June Scott, Mrs G. Richardson, Mrs Rosemary McCulloch and Mrs Alison Wansborough of Sandy Bay. The current LA executive members are Mrs Pam Rowell and Mrs Patsy Saunders of Tarooona plus Mrs Carol Keenan of Sandy Bay.



## **Community Aid Abroad**

**Margaret Eldridge**

The formation of the Tarooona group of Community Aid Abroad took place in July 1971. Other groups were in existence in Hobart, Glenorchy, Lindisfarne and Howrah. The organisation started in Victoria in 1953 when the Rev. Tucker of the Anglican Brotherhood of St. Laurence and a group of pensioners decided to do something personally to help the plight of poor people in India. Food for Peace gave rise to Community Aid Abroad.

Community Aid Abroad involved personal commitment to self-help projects overseas. Bill and Lesley Dixon had been members of the Box Hill group in Victoria and were instrumental in establishing the Tarooona group. It appealed to many residents as a way of fostering a sense of community in our ribbon, dormitory suburb, as well as being a practical approach to identifying and assisting the poorest of the poor.

Looking back at the group's minutes we find that funds for projects were raised in many ways. Tarooona CAA combined with other groups to run a successful Book Mart in the city and the Eldridges' goat was available for hire and ate its way through grass and blackberries to raise funds.

In addition to regular meetings, where development education and fund-raising took place, the Dixons kept a supply of third world handicrafts for sale. These articles were supplied by Trade Action, CAA's trading subsidiary, and provided an income for the craftsmen in developing countries. All profits made in Tarooona were ploughed back into further projects. The first project undertaken was to support villagers of Boyolayar, an impoverished area of Java, in their efforts to build a more solid school building than the bamboo one which was twice destroyed by storms. The early newsletter shows that 800 Tarooona families were contacted and asked to help. Only 28 responded, but between them they donated \$367, more than half of Tarooona's share of the project.

The school was officially opened by the Australian ambassador to Indonesia, who braved a mile of winding track in an aged jeep to perform the ceremony. He commented on

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the enthusiasm of the villagers and how friends overseas had enabled them to complete such an ambitious project. A Tarooma group member, Phil Eldridge, subsequently visited the project, trekking the rough track, and reported back to the group. Improved education in the village provided skills to implement agricultural improvements and improved knowledge of nutrition, which benefitted all villagers.

By 1973 the group took on a commitment to raise \$1,265 for the purchase, transport and installation of a rice huller for Kadirejo village in Central Java. This was a loan to the village to be repaid in ten years, thus providing revolving funds.

Unfortunately the Tarooma CAA group eventually disbanded as dedicated members moved elsewhere and became involved in other demanding organisations and alternative interests. However, Community Aid Abroad is very much alive and well in Tasmania. It now has a state office behind Miriad, at 52 Liverpool Street, Hobart, where there is CAA's shop outlet for third world handicrafts and clothing. As with Trade Action before it, all profits are ploughed back into overseas and aboriginal projects.



## Country Women's Association

Amy Acton

Eleven ladies met in the Old Community Hall on the 3rd August 1942 and formed the Tarooma Branch of the C.W.A. with Mrs Mabel Hebb, Vera Bowden and Vera Briggs as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The aim of the Association was to help each other, the community and the fighting forces. Membership grew rapidly and they knitted garments for the Comforts Fund, made camouflage nets for the Army, gathered essential articles for the huge evacuation box and held monthly dances to raise funds for patriotic and charitable causes. For many years after the war parcels of food and wool were sent regularly to England and clothing to the war refugees in Europe.

Among the many ways to raise money was a musical "Crazy Afternoon". This led to the very talented musician Mrs Olive Wilson forming the Glee Club, through to Choir and Drama Groups. These won high awards in CWA and Statewide competitions and provided concerts and entertainment locally, to other districts and homes for elderly citizens. The eight most talented members formed an octette which sang for ten years over the ABC's radio station 7ZL.

In 1945 £5 was donated to the State Primary School towards the purchase of a treadle sewing machine. Since that time the Branch has always assisted and taken an interest in the school and nowadays presents a book annually to the Keith George Memorial Library. Handcrafts have always been a part of the Branch's activities and from 1952 the Adult Education Board for many years provided a tutor in dressmaking. Many members have won awards at State Exhibitions and the Royal Hobart Agricultural Show. Often classes are held in member's homes in conjunction with a soup and sandwich luncheon.

At the November 1948 CWA meeting it was moved that negotiations be put in train with the Education Department to form a Pre-School in the district, and to further this cause, the Branch donated £75 for furniture and equipment. In June 1953 the Glee Club donated £27-7-0 the proceeds of a very successful Musical Market, to the Ex-

Servicemen's Association to help defray the cost of necessary alterations to make their hall suitable for a second Pre-School.

Helping needy Hobart folk has been an annual project since 1961, when members commenced providing innumerable articles of comfort to patients of the Hobart District Nursing Association and annually providing patients and their nurses with entertainment and gifts at Christmas parties.

Australian Country Women have, for many years, observed the first Sunday in May as CWA Sunday, when members attend their own denominational church. Acting on a suggestion by Mrs Lane in 1964, Tarooma held an interdenominational service in St. Luke's Church Hall conducted entirely by members, with the choir singing special hymns and with a lady guest speaker. So well attended was the service, that similar ones have become annual events. Nowadays the choir is augmented by members of the South Eastern and Derwent CWA choirs. The always very generous offerings from these services are forwarded to the London Headquarters of Associated Country Women of the World to help assist welfare projects in third world countries.

From the day following the devastating bush fires of February 1967, besides giving all varieties of goods to victims, many members worked untiringly in the burnt-out township of Snug until the Relief Centre there closed a month later. At night they often brought home garments needing "a tuck here" or to be "let out there" to fit the new recipients. Members also raised \$575 at an American Tea to assist in the rebuilding of the CWA Snug Holiday Home and one member arranged for one hundred and fifty double bedspreads and fifty dressing gowns to be donated by "Jeldi". These were distributed to southern Tasmanian members who were victims of the fires.

For thirty years it had been obvious that Tarooma needed a New Community Hall and several ideas had been put forward. The CWA made a survey and it was revealed how much residents desired a new facility. Local organisations joined CWA to request the Kingborough Council to call a public meeting. This was held in the State High School Assembly Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday the 28th September 1975 and a General Committee was formed. Mrs Jean Dawson, CWA President, was one of its members. She

was later elected as CWA representative on the Steering Committee.

The CWA since 1956 had used St Luke's Church Hall for its activities and it moved to the New Community Hall in March 1980. Mrs Joan Hurburgh is currently our representative on the Hall Committee. After a public meeting where ideas were being sought for a suitable memorial to Mr Keith George, the matter was discussed at the CWA meeting where Mrs Marie Brownlie suggested a room suitable for small gatherings be built onto the Hall. The idea was adopted by the Keith George Memorial Committee. Mrs. Marie Brownlie was elected to this Committee which raised funds to help cover the building costs. One meeting per year is set aside to study the life-style of women in other countries. As Australia is developing into a multi-cultural society, it is much easier now than in earlier times to arrange for a Guest Speaker who is a compatriot of the country being studied and to select national recipes from which to prepare a midday meal for members and guests from other local organisations.

Many worthwhile resolutions have been forwarded to State Conferences. Recent ones being those dealing with health problems, recycling of paper, audible signals at street corners to assist blind persons, pollution and deep concern about the ozone problem.

During the International Year of the Child in 1979 the CWA along with other organisations, augmented with a \$2,000 Grant from the State Committee of International Year of the Child, raised sufficient money to build an enclosed swimming pool and change rooms at the Snug Special School.

The Branch also helped the State Association to raise \$68,000 which has been used to provide two-way radios to Domicillary Nursing Services in country areas. Members of the Association have been actively connected with many other organisations in the Community.

Fairs, concerts, exhibitions, cafe chantons, luncheons, American Teas and catering are means of raising finance for projects and worthy causes. This requires good organisation and work.

To those who have given long and outstanding service to the Association and the Community the awards of "Branch Member of Honour" are made. The late Mesdames

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Vera Bowden, Vera Briggs, Catherine English, Win Hean, Suzie Smith and Leila Baldwin were all "Members of Honour".

Present "Members of Honour" are Mesdames Val Bell, Marie Brownlie and Effie Lane who have each given forty continuous

years of musical, drama and organizing talents and along with other members have upheld the Association's Motto of "Service to the Community".

#### Reference

Minutes of the Tarooma Branch, 1942-1986.



*The Foundation Secretary Mrs V. Bowden, aged 74, on left and Mrs C. English, aged 83. Both were past Members of Honour.*

PHOTO "THE MERCURY" 11TH AUGUST 1966.